



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 1001.55US02

Stodala et al.

Confirmation No.: 2135

Application No.: 10/776,039

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: February 11, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3618

For: VEHICLE MOUNTED STEP ASSEMBLY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date. No certification or fee is required.

This application was filed after June 30, 2003; therefore, copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. published applications are not included.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Bondi
Registration No. 39,616

Application No. 10/776,039

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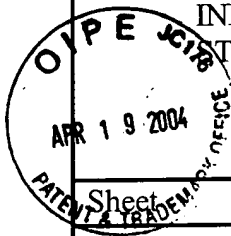
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Michael Bondi
Michael A. Bondi



Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/776,039
Filing Date	February 11, 2004
First Named Inventor	Stodala et al.
Art Unit	3618
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	1001.55US02

Sheet 1 of 6

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US-3,580,613	05-25-1971	Northrup
		US-3,606,382	09-20-1971	Pollock
		US-3,853,369	12-10-1974	Holden
		US-3,865,399	02-11-1975	Way
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		US-4,089,276	05-16-1978	Enos
		US-4,194,754	03-25-1980	Hightower
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		US-4,695,218	09-22-1987	Boyer
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		US-5,106,002	04-21-1992	Smith et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/776,039
				Filing Date	February 11, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Stodala et al.
				Art Unit	3618
				Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet	2	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	1001.55US02

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US-5,181,822	01-26-1993	Allsop et al.
		US-5,215,234	06-01-1993	Pasley
		US-5,310,100	05-10-1994	Liscinsky
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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US-5,820,193	10-13-1998	Straffon
		US-5,842,709	12-01-1998	Maccabee
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		US-6,378,748	04-30-2002	Cox

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)		
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		US-6,474,668	11-05-2002	Debo
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		US-2002/0197142	12-26-2002	Anderson et al.
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				Art Unit	3618
				Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet	5	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	1001.55US02
NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published			T ²
		Twistep Assembly, Installation, Use and Safety Instructions, pages 1-4.			
		Hitch Step/Towheads, Hitch Step, page 15.			
		Carr Pattern Company, Inc., page 24.			
		Car Barriers, www.dresslersdog.com/carbarrier.html , pages 1-6.			
		Twistep by OT, Dial up the Utility on your SUV! With Twistep the instant, multi-use step, http://www.twistep.com/index.htm , page 1.			
		Pet Information, http://www.twistep.com/petinfo.htm , pages 2-4.			
		Twistep by OT, Dimensions & Specification, http://www.twistep.com/dimensionsandspecificaitons.htm , pages 1-2.			
		Overton's 2003 Spring Master, page. 115.			
		Steel Horse Receiver Hitch Step, http://www.autobarn.net/steelhourrech.html , page 1.			
		Go Rhino Universal HitchStep, http://shop.store.yahoo.com/rodi/gorhinunhit.html , page 1 of 2.			
		Step-Around Step, Custom Fit Vehicle-Make/Year/Mode, page 1.			
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published			T ²
		Bumper Hitch Step, Bumpster/Hitch Step Bars, http://www.sportsimports ltd.com/bumhitstep.html , page 1.			
		http://store1.yimg.com/I/truckstuffusa_1733_294812 , page 1.			
		Cabela's Automotive & ATV 2003 catalog, pages 56, 67, 71 and last page.			
		Cabela's – Petstop II Pet Ramp, http://www.cabelas.com/cabelas/en/templates/product/standard-item.jhtml?id+001999186174 , page 1.			
		Bass Pro Shops Marine Catalog 2003, pages 140-141.			
		Twistep Multi-Use SUV Stair Step, http://canineauto.com/twistep.htm , pages 1-5.			
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<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</p> <p>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.</i></p>					